Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, if a fault occurs to affect the vehicle's run, the above conventional system supplies information to an external institution ~~no matter whether~~ even if the severity of the fault is low. When the intended purpose is to prevent the vehicle from becoming ~~unable to run,~~ disabled, the vehicle does not always have to transmit the information to ~~the~~ an external ~~institution~~ if the severity of the fault is low and does not immediately ~~make~~ disable the ~~vehicle unable to run.~~ vehicle. In this respect, the above conventional system unnecessarily increases the load on a vehicle's information process.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention has been made in view of the above circumstances. It is an object of the present invention to provide a vehicle fault diagnostic system that is capable of ~~early taking of~~ taking early countermeasures against a vehicle fault and ~~is capable of sufficient reduce of the~~ reduces information processing load on the vehicle by establishing communication between the vehicle and an external institution.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 is a conceptual diagram illustrating the configuration of a first embodiment of the present invention. As shown in Fig. 1, a system according to the first embodiment includes a vehicle 10, which is used by ~~an~~ a user, an information center 12, and a dealer 14, which doubles as a vehicle servicing institution. As described later, these three can communicate information to each other via communication devices.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The above faults do not bring the vehicle to an immediate stop. However, it is conceivable that the above faults may be caused by any abnormality, and are likely to bring discomfort to the passengers in the vehicle, unlike Level 1 faults or the like. Therefore, when a Level 2 failure or defect is detected, the system according to the present embodiment attempts to identify the cause of the detected faults or defects and supplies the resulting identification information to the dealer 14, thereby making it possible to take early countermeasures against the detected fault or defect. When identifying the faults, the system according to the present embodiment causes the information center 12 to perform a part of an identification process for the purpose of reducing the load on the ECU 10 while allowing the ECU 10 and information center 12 to exchange information.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 3 is a flowchart illustrating processing steps that the vehicle 10, information center 12, and dealer 14 respectively perform in ~~compliance~~ accordance with the above concept. As indicated in the flowchart, the ECU 16 in the vehicle 10 detects a large number of vehicle data concerning the status of the vehicle 10 (step 100). The vehicle data concerning Level 2 and Level 3 faults or defects are transmitted to the information center 12 (step 102).